

Lightning talk | Election Integrity Partnership

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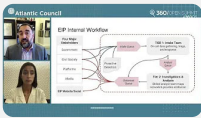
The Election Integrity Partnership (EIP) was a coalition of research institutions that worked together to detect and mitigate viral misinformation and disinformation and to support the real-time information exchange between the research community, election officials, government agencies, civil society organizations, and social media platforms. The partnership was constructed to monitor and document falsehoods about the election and trace how misinformation and disinformation coalesced around certain narratives and trends. In this lightning talk, the leaders of the EIP will explain the history behind its creation and operation and discuss what may or may not be replicable for future elections in the United States and around the world.


Speakers:

Isabella Garcia Camargo, Consultant, Krebs Stamos Group
Alex Stamos, Founding Partner, Krebs Stamos Group


Key moments View all


1:04
The Election Integrity Partnership


3:32
Examples of Election Disinformation


6:07
The Long Fuse

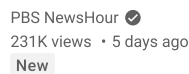
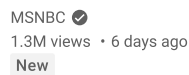
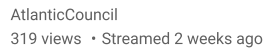
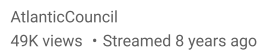
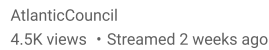
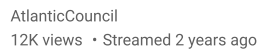
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Hacking the Election

What happened: Disinformation in 2020 elections





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IN RE: STATE OF MISSOURI, ET AL.

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VS.

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JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., ET AL.

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CASE NO. 322CV01213

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EVENT: ATLANTIC COUNCIL: LIGHTNING TALK: ELECTION

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INTEGRITY PARTNERSHIP

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JUNE 24, 2021

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17 were unable to be transcribed and include inaudible
18 portions. The transcript may also include
19 misinterpreted words and/or unidentified speakers.
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1 (CLIP: 1:38-3:19)

2 ALEX STAMOS: The election integrity
3 partnership started with our team in Stanford sending
4 a group of interns to go work with the -- the cyber
5 security and infrastructure security agency at the DHS
6 to work election security. And what these interns
7 found is, there's a lot of opportunity for them to
8 contribute to the technical components of election
9 security. They also found that there was a lack of
10 capability around election disinformation. This is
11 not because CISA didn't care about disinformation, but
12 at the time they lacked both kind of the funding and
13 the legal authorizations to go do the kinds of work
14 that would be necessary to truly understand how
15 election disinformation was operated.

16 So because of the feedback and the ideas
17 from this group, we were able to pull together pretty
18 quickly a project between four different institutions
19 to try to fill the gap of the things that the
20 government cannot do themselves. There are kind
21 of four major stakeholders that we operated with that
22 we worked beside at EIP. Our partners in government,
23 most particularly those in CISA and DHS, but also in
24 all of the local and state governments with whom we
25 operated with -- with the election integrity

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1 infrastructure ISAC. We worked with civil society
2 groups such as NAACP, MITRE coming cause and the
3 healthy election project that worked at both MIT and
4 Stanford, and then we also worked with the major
5 platforms, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, Reddit,
6 Next Door and the like. I mean, some of those cases
7 we had agreements for access of data. In other cases,
8 we had to have individual analysts go work with them.

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1 (CLIP: 10:29-12:31)

2 ALEX STAMOS: We find very little evidence
3 that there's any foreign involvement at all. In fact,
4 the vast majority of election disinformation in 2020
5 came from Americans who had verified accounts and very
6 large follower accounts.

7 So as one of the big changes that we point
8 out in our report is that this information is much
9 less about massive amplification. It's honestly less
10 about things like algorithms and algorithmic
11 amplification. It's a much more important factor now
12 is that there are large follower account political
13 partisans who are spreading misinformation
14 intentionally, doing so in a multi-media context. So
15 they're doing so online, on social media, but they're
16 also doing so on cable news, doing so on the radio,
17 through a variety of different outlets and are able to
18 amplify their message and to motivate their followers
19 to go try find evidence of the incorrect claims that
20 they're making.

21 Where does this leave us for 2022 and 2024?
22 So the election integrity partnership was a project
23 just for 2020. We are looking at options for these
24 different groups to work together in the future
25 elections, but there is going to have to be work in

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1 the federal government level to decide, one, who is in
2 the government is going to own disinformation as a
3 problem. That is something that for at least in the
4 American domestic context has not been figured out.
5 And second, what kind of role should the academic and
6 the NGO sector play here?

7 And one thing we're going to have to figure
8 out is, not just from a funding perspective, but from
9 a privacy and data access perspective. One of the
10 things that continues to happen is, we continue to get
11 tighter and tighter privacy laws being passed around
12 access to online social media data, and as long as
13 that is happening, we're going to have to take into
14 account those issues, and the need for academic
15 research when passing those laws.

16 So this is something that we're going to
17 continue to write about and talk about as we work with
18 our partners to figure out how the same kind of
19 function that the EIP filled in 2020, can be filled by
20 somebody in 2022 and 2024.

21 (Audio ended.)

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18

19 Melissa J. Lane, CCR, CSR, RPR

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